

was repeatedly victim to brutal and racially-motivated pogroms, darkly reminiscent of the days of the Armenian genocide. Hundreds were murdered, thousands were displaced, and the Armenian community, both in Artsakh and in exile, continues to bear the scars from the brutal attacks in Sumgait, Kirovabad, and Baku.

When the people of Nagorno-Karabakh officially declared independence on December 10, 1991, they were met with full-scale war lasting until 1994. Even today, the people of Nagorno-Karabakh are still forced to live under constant cease-fire violations by Azerbaijan.

As we commemorate the somber anniversary marking the struggle of the Nagorno-Karabakh people, we wish for the peaceful resolution of this conflict and hope that its citizens will be free to determine their own future.

REMEMBERING MIDDLE EAST BELIEVERS KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks, the Islamic State has targeted religious minorities throughout the Middle East, including the Yazidis in Iraq and the 21 Coptic Christians executed in Libya.

This week, ISIS has abducted more than 200 Assyrian Christians. We pray earnestly for their release and for comfort for their families.

These murderers want us to tremble at their physical brutality, but an even more sinister violence is at work, a sustained and strategic campaign against religious freedom. This is the God-given freedom to hold any belief—or none at all—without coercion or reprisal.

Global attention is and should be transfixed on those killed for their faith in the Middle East; yet more than three-quarters of the world's population lives under regimes that restrict belief.

Our Nation's first freedom is not and should not be bound by geography or nation. We must defend religious freedom at all times and in all places, or this violent cycle will continue.

FUND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in urging the GOP leadership to advance legislation that will keep the American people safe by continuing to fund the Department of Homeland Security.

Just yesterday, with the arrest of three suspects in New York City planning to assist terror groups or join ISIS, we see the continuing imperative of a vibrant homeland security effort.

In a matter of hours, funding for the Department will expire, thereby forcing thousands of essential employees to put their lives on the line without pay. State and local law enforcement operations will be among the hardest hit if we allow funding to lapse.

By bringing a clean spending bill to the floor, we have the power to prevent the dangerous partial shutdown of the government. Our Nation's security is at stake here, and another day of inaction by this Congress is unacceptable. Let's vote on a clean spending bill today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 861, the clean Department of Homeland Security funding bill that would keep the Department open so it can carry out the mission of keeping the American people safe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TROTT). As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

HONORING RENE GAGNON ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

(Mr. GUINTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage and sacrifice demonstrated by our marines, specifically Corporal Rene Gagnon, a Granite Stater, during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Gagnon was selected and participated in what is arguably the most celebrated American flag raising in our Nation's history.

Immortalized by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal, six U.S. Marines, including Corporal Gagnon, raised the colors above Mount Suribachi on the fifth day of the month-long battle for Iwo Jima.

Born to immigrants from Quebec, Gagnon grew up in Manchester, New Hampshire, and left in 1943 after being drafted. He elected to join the United States Marine Corps.

As part of Operation Detachment, a total of 92,000 men, 70,000 Americans, and 22,000 Japanese, fought to secure Iwo Jima, a tiny island controlled by the Japanese that was no larger than one-third the size of Manhattan.

As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima, let us take a moment to honor Corporal Gagnon and the rest of our Nation's Greatest Generation who fought bravely to secure and preserve our Nation's democracy during World War II.

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PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the history and

legacy of the Pullman community of Chicago.

Last week, President Obama designated Pullman as a national monument, ensuring that Pullman's heritage as an industrial innovator and labor leader lives on.

Pullman played a vital role in our Nation's labor and civil rights movements. It is the birthplace of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, our Nation's first Black labor union, and it was a major battleground in the national fight for fair wages and safe working conditions.

I thank the countless dedicated people who worked with me and before me to make this designation possible. Pullman National Monument will preserve Pullman's legacy and ensure that the community will continue to thrive for generations to come.

FCC EXPANDING AUTHORITY OVER INTERNET

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this administration's continued policy of governing from behind closed doors and using the executive branch to take more freedom away from the American people.

Today the Federal Communications Commission will vote for an unprecedented expansion of its authority over the Internet, without providing any public discourse on the details of the proposal.

What we do know about this government invasion into the Internet is deeply troubling. The Internet has been a source of great creativity, investment, and economic growth, an area of freedom, where innovation has flourished and entrepreneurs, startups, and anyone with an idea has opportunity.

What is Washington's answer to this booming marketplace? Government control and regulation.

One of the Commissioners has referred to it as "a solution that won't work to a problem that doesn't exist." This is deeply troubling.

I know of no industry that has become more vibrant, more free, or led to more innovation after a government takeover. Allowing the FCC to designate the Internet a regulated utility will increase taxes and allow government to decide pricing, cost, content, or anything else. This is the camel's nose under the tent.

The FCC should release its proposals and allow the American people back behind its closed doors.

DHS SHUTDOWN

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, there are just 2 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts